

SHIPP, A.
Appl. No. 10/500,958
Response to Office Action dated January 10, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figure 2 has been amended to add reference sign 100 and Figure 3 has been amended to add reference sign 300. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement drawing sheets

Annotated drawing sheets showing changes

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement is filed concurrently herewith.

The office action states that applicant has not filed a certified copy of British Application No. 0309462.0. However, in accordance with MPEP 1893.03(c).II and Rule 17.2 PCT, applicant is not required to file a certified copy of the British priority application at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. This is not required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) because the subject patent application is the national stage of an international application and the certified copy of the British priority application was properly filed at an International Bureau of WIPO under Rule 17.1(b) PCT. Applicant encloses a copy of a Notice Concerning Submission or Transmittal of Priority Document (Form PCT/IB/304) in respect of the international application from which the subject patent application derives showing proper filing of the certified copy of the British priority application under Rule 17.1(b) PCT.

The drawings were objected to as failing to include the reference sign(s) 100, 200 and 300 mentioned in the description. In this regard, reference signs 100 and 300 have been added to Figures 2 and 3, respectively, and the mention of reference sign 200 has been deleted from the specification. Based on these amendments, withdrawal of this objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The drawings were further objected to as including reference element 1' in Figure 1B and reference elements 302 and 305 in Figure 3 which are not mentioned in the description. The specification has been amended to mention reference signs 1', 302 and 305 as appropriate. Based on these amendments, withdrawal of this further objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Other amendments have been made to place the specification in a more traditional U.S. format.

Claims 1 and 5 were each objected to as failing to include the word "and" after the semicolon on line 3. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to include "and" in the appropriate places and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as allegedly being “anticipated” by Hoefelmeyer et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0086499). While not acquiescing in this rejection, at least as independent claims 1 and 5 have now been amended, applicant respectfully submits that the rejected claims are not anticipated by Hoefelmeyer et al.

Firstly, the rejection is raised on the basis that feature (a) of claims 1 and 5 relating to the link analyser corresponds to element 110 of Hoefelmeyer et al. which is described in paragraph 24, lines 4-12. Element 110 of Hoefelmeyer et al. is a front-end processor that receives content. Hoefelmeyer et al. is silent as to how the front-end processor 110 reacts to hyperlinks. Consequently, Hoefelmeyer does not disclose that the front-end processor is operative to identify the hyperlinks, as opposed to simply treating them as text, in which case the hyperlinks cannot be said to be identified.

Feature (a) of claim 1 now defines the link analyzer as being “operative to identify hyperlinks in document content.” However, Hoefelmeyer does not disclose that the front-end processor 110 is “operative to identify hyperlinks in document content.” Therefore, feature (a) of claim 1 is not shown by Hoefelmeyer et al. Similarly, feature (a) of claim 5 defines “using a link analyzer to identify hyperlinks in document content.” As just discussed, there is no disclosure in Hoefelmeyer et al. that the front end processor 110 is used to identify hyperlinks in document content and thus Hoefelmeyer et al fails to show feature (a) of claim 5.

Secondly, the rejection is based on an assertion that the first part of feature (b) of claims 1 and 5 relating to the use of a content scanner corresponds to elements 122, 124 and 126 of Hoefelmeyer et al., which are described at paragraph 23, lines 12-15; paragraph 27, lines 1-6, and paragraphs 28 and 29. Elements 122, 124 and 126 of Hoefelmeyer et al. are computer systems which scan contents and so Hoefelmeyer et al. could be said to disclose use of a content scanner to scan content and determine its acceptability according to predefined rules.

However, the content which Hoefelmeyer et al. discloses consists of “web pages 102, e-mail messages 104, attachments 106 to the e-mail messages 104, and raw files 108 transmitted over a file transfer protocol such as FTP”, as disclosed at paragraph 23, lines 9-12. Therefore, Hoefelmeyer et al. discloses scanning of the document content itself. Hoefelmeyer et al. is silent as to how hyperlinks are handled. Independent claims 1 and 5 explicitly recite that the content

scanners are used or cause to “scan objects referenced by links identified by the link analyser.” Hoefelmeyer et al. does not disclose the feature explicitly recited in claims 1 and 5 that there is scanning of “objects referenced by links” as opposed to merely scanning the characters representing the link as part of the content of the document in which the link is present.

Thirdly, the rejection alleges that the final part of claim 1 is “optional” and thus “holds no patentable weight.” First, this allegation is effectively an admission that this feature cannot be found in Hoefelmeyer et al. Second, this allegation is incorrect inasmuch as when the specified condition exists (i.e., when the link is to an object external to the document and is determined by the content analyser to be acceptable), the claimed means is operative to retrieve the external object and modify the document as claimed. Simply because a means is claimed to be operative to perform functions when a certain condition exists does not mean the limitation is optional and there is no basis for ignoring such a limitation in a patentability determination. Third, claim 1 has been amended to read “the means being operative, responsive to the link being to an object external to the document which object is determined by the content scanner to be acceptable, to ...” By this amendment, the means is even more clearly responsive to a certain condition (namely that the link is to an object external to the document and is determined to be acceptable) and constitutes an explicit feature of the content scanning system. For at least these reasons, the final part of claim 1 is respectfully submitted to not be “optional”. Moreover, Hoefelmeyer et al. does not disclose a means that performs, responsive to the condition of claim 1 being met, retrieving an external object and modifying the document by replacing the link to the external object by one to a copy of the object stored in a trusted server.

For at least these reasons, claims 1 and 5 cannot be anticipated by Hoefelmeyer et al.

Claims 4 and 8 depend from claim 1 and are believed to patentable distinguish over Hoefelmeyer et al. because of this dependency and because of the additional patentable features contained therein.

Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as allegedly being “obvious” over Hoeflemeyer et al. in view of Lambert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,629,138). Lambert et al. is applied as allegedly disclosing the recursive processing of links as set forth in these claims. Even assuming for the sake of argument (without admitting) that Lambert et al. could be said to disclose these features and that motivation could be identified for the proposed

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combination of Lambert et al. with Hoefelmeyer et al., Lambert et al. in no way remedies the above-noted deficiencies of Hoefelmeyer et al. with respect to claims 1 and 5, from which claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 depend. Consequently, the proposed combination of these documents cannot render these claims obvious.

New claims 9-12 have been added. These claims are based on the disclosure as originally filed and applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added. These claims are believed to patentably distinguish over the applied documents for reasons similar to those advanced above with respect to claims 1 and 5.

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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BEFORE

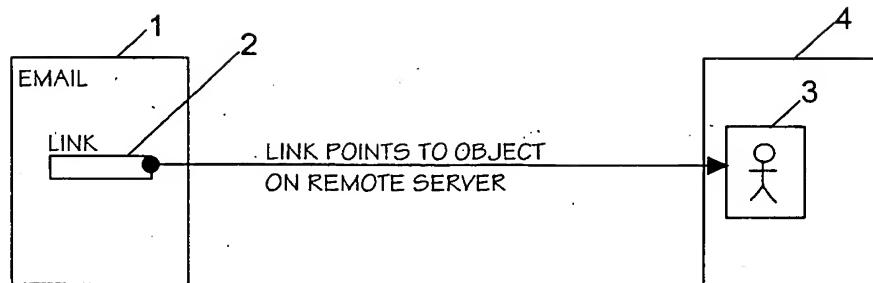


Fig.1A

AFTER

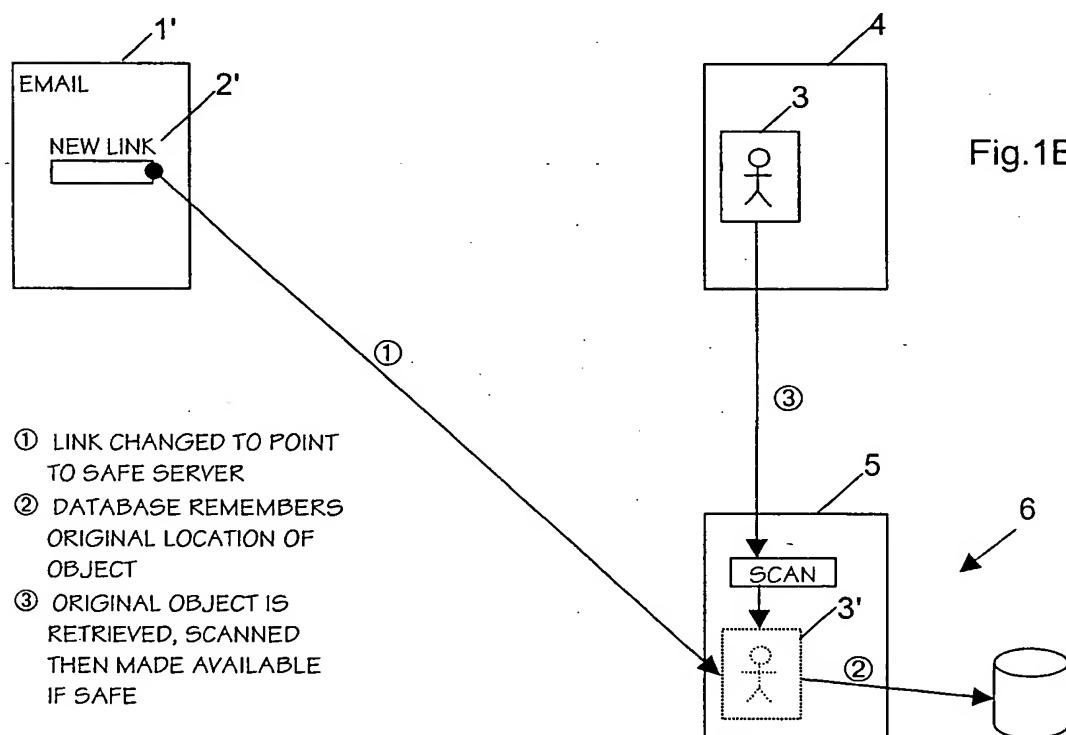


Fig.1B

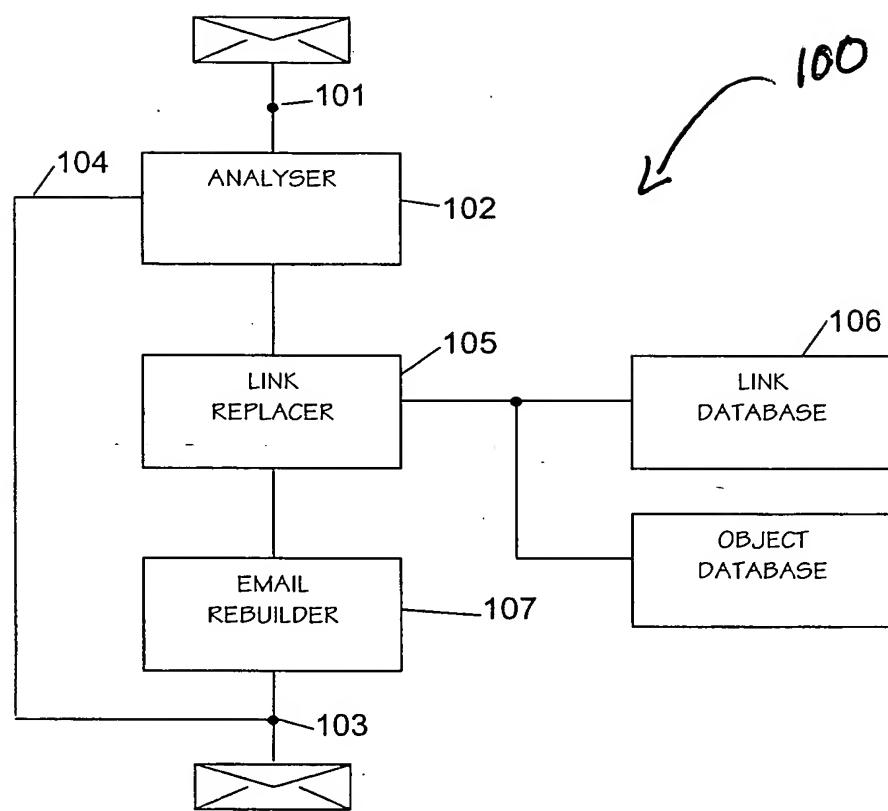


Fig.2

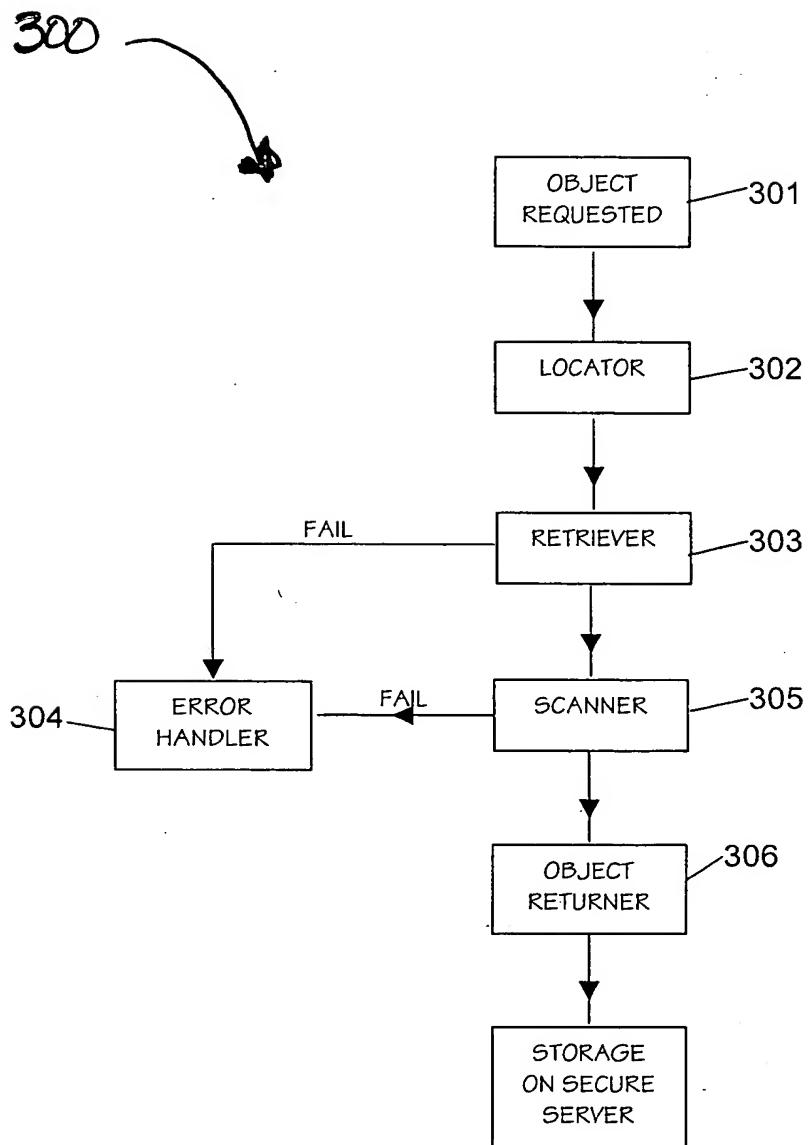


Fig.3